

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 13:

As shown in Fig. 17, the rigid endoscope 102 includes an elongated insertion unit 121, a hand-held unit 122 formed at the proximal end of the insertion unit 121, and an eyepiece unit 123 formed at the proximal end of the hand-held unit 122. The hand-held unit 122 has a light guide base 124, and is connected to the light source apparatus 105 over a light guide cable 125.

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 5:

The CCD output signal input to the pre-processing circuit 133 is pre-processed by performing correlation doubling sampling (CDS) and sample-and-hold (S/H). The resultant signal is then input to an A/D converter 134 and converted into a digital signal. The digital signal is input to a digital signal processor (DSP) 135.

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 1:

Moreover, the CCU 107 is provided with a reference signal generator (SSG) 138. Based on a clock signal generated by the SSG 138, a timing signal generator (TG) 139 generates a timing signal. The CCD driver 131 drives the CCD 106 in response to the timing signal. The clock signal sent from the SSG 138 is also output to the pre-processing circuit 133, A/D converter 134, DSP 135, and D/A converter 136. The CCD output signal (image signal) sent from the CCD driver 131 is processed synchronously with the clock signal.

Replacement for the two paragraphs beginning at page 32, line 5, through page 33, ~~line 3~~ ^{line 4}:

As shown in Fig. 18, the expansion unit 110 includes a discrimination circuit 151 for inputting an uncompressed digital video signal, to which a discrimination signal is appended by the digital interface 141, extracting the discrimination signal, appending to the uncompressed digital video signal a compressibility signal proportional to the discrimination signal, and outputting the resultant digital video signal. The expansion unit 110 further includes a compression circuit 152 for compressing an uncompressed digital video signal, to which the compressibility signal sent from the discrimination circuit is appended, at a level of compressibility indicated by the

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compressibility signal, and a recording unit 153 for recording the compressibility signal and digital video signal on a PC card 112 via a PC card slot 111.

The PC card 112 is divided into segments associated with a plurality of data groups, for example, patients or medical fields. Associated patient data items and medical-field data items are recorded in the segments. The discrimination circuit 151 can select a level of compressibility according to patient data or medical-field data recorded on the PC card 112, and provide a discrimination signal indicating the level of compressibility.

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 15 through page 36, line 2:

Then, at step S14, the compression circuit 152 compresses the digital video signal at a level of compressibility indicated by the compressibility signal. At step S15, the recording unit 153 records the resultant digital video signal on the PC card 112 together with the compressibility signal via the PC card slot 111. Thus, the compressibility signal is recorded together with the compressed digital video signal on the PC card 112. The compressed image can therefore be decompressed properly by handling a personal computer or the like when it must be reopened.

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 3:

The parameter used at step S12 in Fig. 19 is not limited to the number of pixels permitted by the CCD 106. Alternatively, the type of rigid endoscope 102 defined by an angular field of view permitted by the rigid endoscope may be used. In this case, the CPU 140 uses as a parameter any of a first endoscope, second endoscope, third endoscope, etc., which are sorted in that order from the smallest-diameter endoscope to the largest diameter one as shown in Table 3, to select a discrimination signal.

Replacement for the paragraph beginning at page 37, ^{line 8}~~line 9~~:

Moreover, the discrimination signal to be read at step S13 in Fig. 19 may represent medical-field data as listed in Table 5 or patient data as listed in Table 6. Based on the data, the discrimination circuit 151 selects a level of compressibility.

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